



#ForestPartnerships #EUGreenDeal #TeamEurope

FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE

Our future is in our hands and in our trees

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Interview with **Dennis David Kavuma**
Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA)

Why do forests matter to you?

Forests are a public good. Apart from cleaning the air we breathe and our water, holding the soil, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and being home to a multitude of biodiversity, they provide the world's most environmentally friendly, sustainable renewable resource which is wood that humans can use for energy, and products used in everyday life for shelter, food, logistics etc

What are the main challenges to forests in your area today?

They include forest degradation and deforestation due to expanding agricultural activities, construction development and energy.

What is your idea of sustainable forest management?

This is a planned and deliberate effort undertaken to grow trees, manage them, harvest and replant. It entails turning the wood value chain into a cycle. It also supports the protection and conservation of natural forests and juxtaposing this with the establishment of forest plantations to provide timber, poles and fuel wood to support the value chain.

How can sustainable forestry contribute to create jobs and income?

The promotion of commercial wood value chains is premised on the long-term planning of raising fast growing straight trees and harvesting them in a manner that optimises efficiency, uses all the wood material available to make wood products. This requires a dedicated and skilled labour force that has been trained and has expertise in silviculture, forest management, harvesting and wood processing .



The Proust Questionnaire

Freely inspired by a parlour game popularised by the French novelist Marcel Proust

Your chief characteristic?

I put effort in trying to be more understanding.

What do you appreciate most in people?

Humility is the most virtuous.

Your idea of happiness?

Good health and no debt.

Your greatest fear?

I fear being the source of primary disappointment. It is nice to add value to other people or situations.

If not yourself, who would you like to be?

Barack Obama.

Your favourite tree?

Pinus auracaria.





Which forest-related achievement do you admire most?

Currently Uganda has accumulated about 100,000ha of well raised commercial plantations. This has been majorly a result of private sector investment through the years. The interest to grow trees is increasing day by day and it is hoped that this will culminate in the establishment of a thriving and sustainable timber industry in Uganda.

How can the European Union better support your country's objective in relation to the forestry sector?

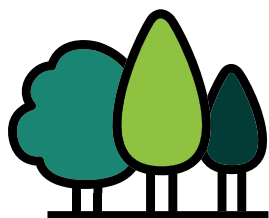
A lot of the success in commercial forestry in Uganda has an EU hand through the Sawlog Production Grant Scheme (SPGS) that incentivised the growing of trees. Now that the trees are coming to maturity, the EU can augment support to downstream processing and value chain development to ensure that the chain becomes a cycle.



About UTGA

Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA) is the umbrella body of the commercial tree farmers in Uganda. It's overall objective is to ensure a sustainable Commercial Forestry Industry (a socio-economic, profitable and environmentally sound industry) in Uganda.

Dennis David Kavuma is the General Manager of the Uganda Timber Growers Association (UTGA). He has operational experience in areas of advocacy, lobbying and working with the public sector, networking and information sharing, training, clustering, outreach and communication, certification, areas along the value chain, value addition, market development and working with people and groups.



FORESTS FOR THE FUTURE FACILITY

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